

**TOLLAND COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION****Statement in opposition to**

**Senate Bill 192 - An Act Concerning Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and Primary Care Providers for Individual or Group Health Insurance Policies**

**Insurance and Real Estate Committee****February 25, 2010**

This statement is being submitted on behalf of the members of the Tolland County Medical Association in opposition to Senate Bill 192 – An Act Concerning Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and Primary Care Providers for Individual or Group Health Insurance Policies.

The bill before you would allow APRNs to be named as primary care providers and thus create the false impression that they are equivalent to a physician. In addition, the bill proposes this to happen without even mandating that the APRN disclose the collaborating physician or requiring the directory in which the APRN would be listed to state the difference in education and training between APRNs and physicians. We feel that this poses a significant risk of misleading the public and our patients.

APRNs are valuable members of the health care team and through collaborative practice we have established working relationships that benefit the patient. However their training and education is vastly different from that of a physician and that is why we are primary care providers. Primary care physicians complete four years of college and four years of medical school and have more clinical training than an APRN would have upon completion of their training. It is not easy to recognize at the beginning stages of education and training who will be a competent practitioner early in the process. It takes years of hands on training backed up with a medical school education to become a competent independent practitioner. In order to provide the best possible health care and protect the public, we think it is essential that anyone referred to as a primary care provider have the highest education and training. We do not believe that the educational and training requirements of an APRN are designed to do that.

We respectfully request that you oppose Senate Bill 192.

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